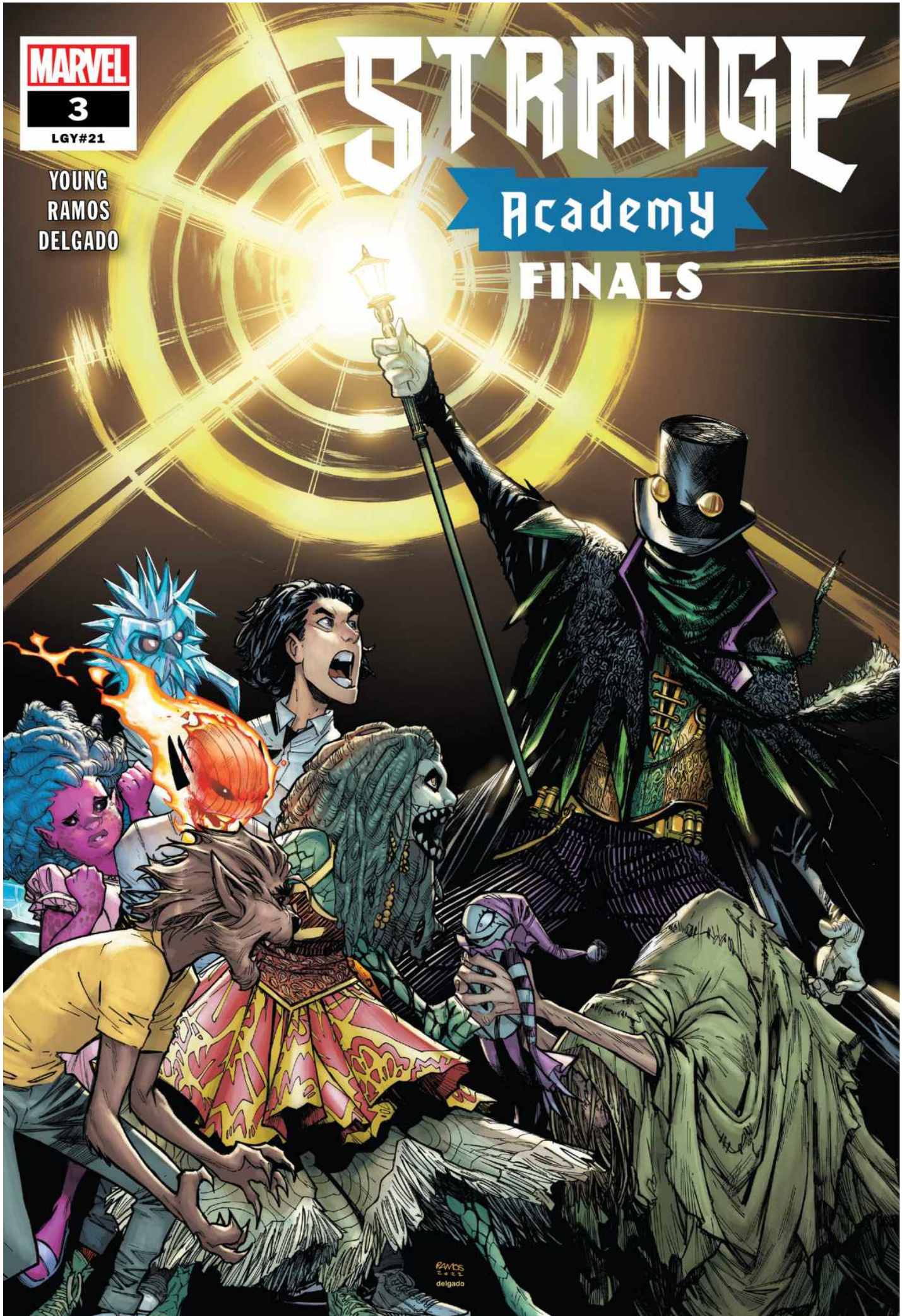
MARVEL
3
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RAMOS
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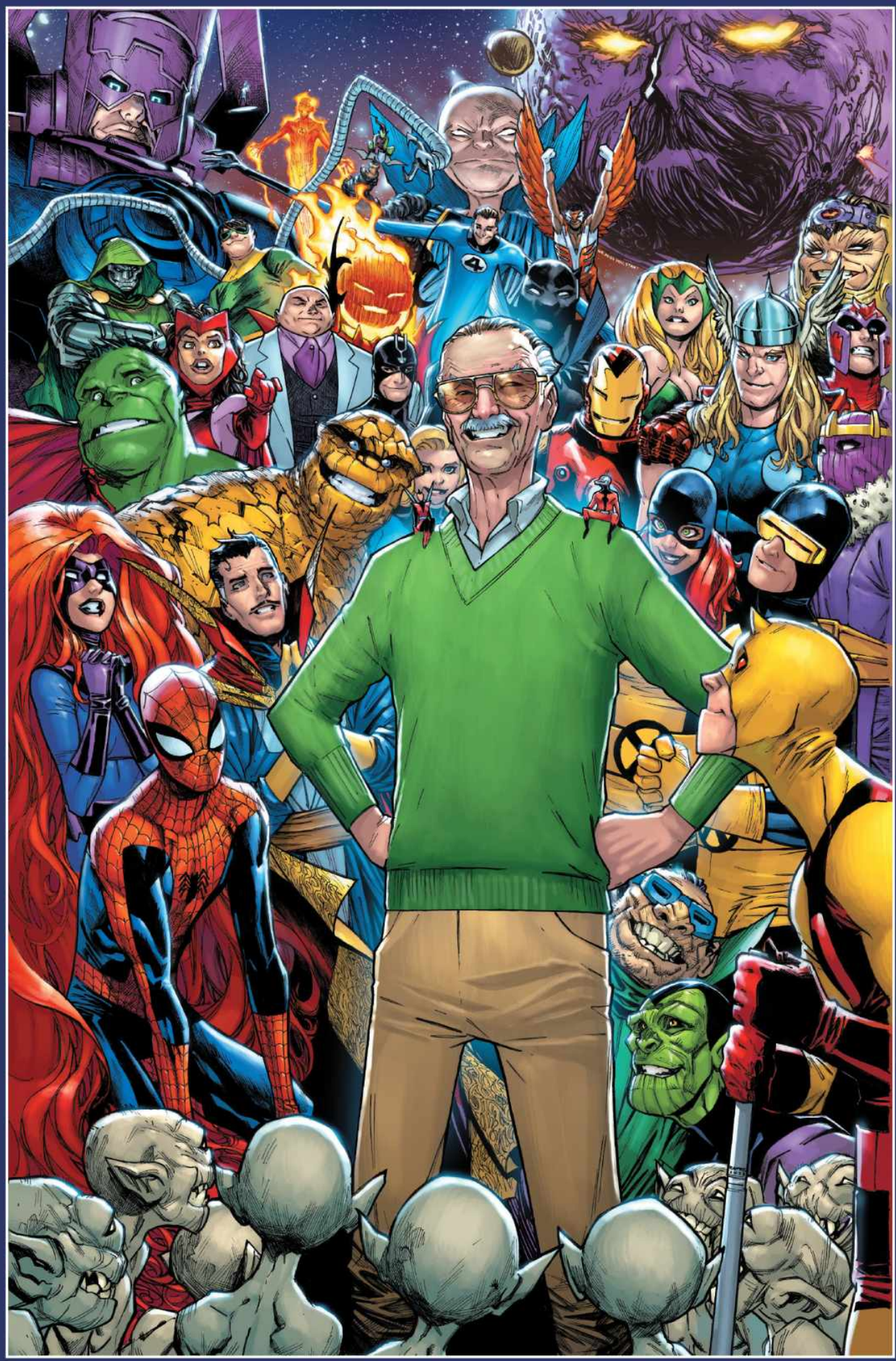
100 YEARS AND STILL INSPIRING US ALL



WE LOVE YOU, STAN!

STRANGE Academy

When the students of Strange Academy learned their old friend and classmate Calvin Morse had gotten into life-threatening trouble with the wish-dealing magician, Gaslamp, they knew they had to act. The rescue mission soon turned into a fight for all of their lives against Gaslamp that concluded in a magical explosion decimating several blocks of the French Quarter.

Meanwhile, Emily Bright and her remaining dropouts, Dessy and Iric, have been lying in wait in the Dark Dimension. What schemes do they have in store for the hallowed halls of Strange Academy?

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STRANGE Academy

DOYLE

SHAYLEE

EMILY

TOTH

GUS

IRIC

GERMÁN

ALVI

DESSY

ZOE

CALVIN

NEW ORLEANS.
THE FRENCH QUARTER.
YOU ALL ARE GONNA LOVE THIS PLACE!
WHY'S THAT?
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE HAUNTED.
EVERYWHERE IN NEW ORLEANS IS SUPPOSED TO BE HAUNTED.
YEAH, BUT THIS ONE IS HAUNTED BY A PIRATE!
SAYS HERE JEAN LAFITTE WAS A PRIVATEER.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
ONE ROBS AND KILLS FOR THEMSELVES AND THE OTHER DOES IT FOR THE GOVERNMENT. SAME GIG, JUST ONE IS MORE SOCIALLY ACCEPTED.
CLOSED? BUT IT SAYS HERE THEY'RE OPEN UNTIL 3 A.M.!
AH, I MUST APOLOGIZE...
...YOU WILL HAVE TO COME BACK ANOTHER NIGHT...

...I'M AFRAID WE ARE CLOSED TONIGHT FOR A PRIVATE PARTY!
AHHHHHHH
YH!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!
PARDON MY TARDINESS...

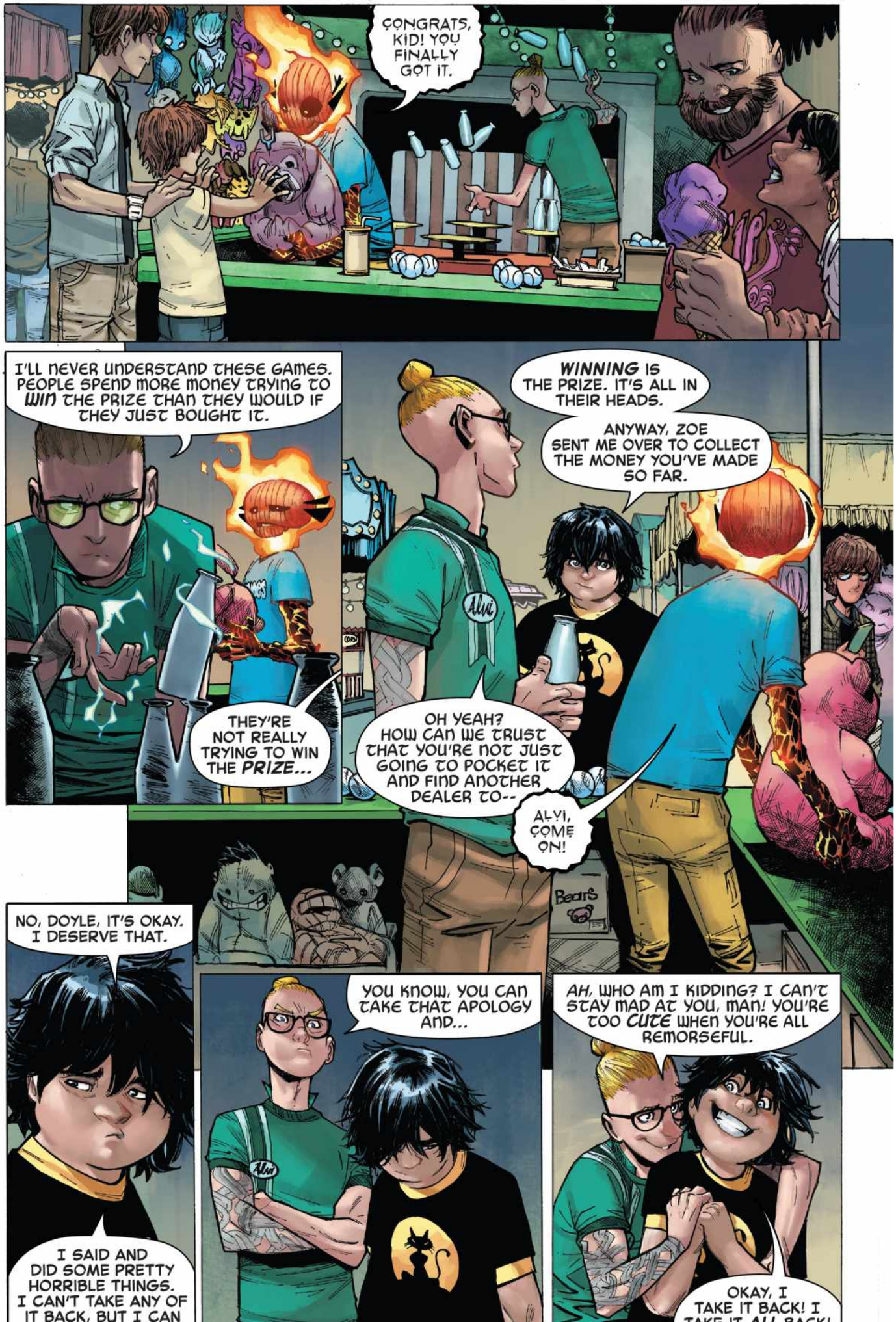
...I DO HOPE DÉMAS HAS KEPT YOUR GLASSES FULL WHILE YOU AWAITED MY ARRIVAL.
EITHER WAY, I AM HERE NOW, AND THE SCOLDING OF DOCTOR VOODOO MAY COMMENCE. *HA HA HA.*
THANK YOU, JEAN.
ALL JOKING ASIDE, YOU HAVE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR, JERICHO. SINCE THIS COUNCIL ALLOWED YOU TO OPEN YOUR SCHOOL, THERE HAS BEEN NO END TO THE TROUBLE YOU ALL HAVE BROUGHT TO NEW ORLEANS.
PAPA MUD IS CORRECT. GASLAMP IS NO FRIEND OF THE COUNCIL, BUT HE HAD PROTECTION UNDER THE OLD LAWS. AND HE'S NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE THE CHILDREN CAUSED THE EXPLOSION.
AND THAT'S JUST THE MOST RECENT DISASTER. WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE TREE OF SOULS YOU PLANTED IN OUR SWAMPS BY PETRIFYING THE HOLLOW, AND WE ALL KNOW...
...WHAT HAPPENED TO MS. HAZEL WHEN YOUR STUDENTS VISITED HER SHOP.
THEY CROSSED A LINE BY GOING INTO HIS TERRITORY AND DESTROYING BLOCKS OF THE QUARTER IN
DON'T BE USING MS. HAZEL AS WEAPON, CATRIONA. I WALKED MY OWN SELF INTO THE FIRE WITH THE SON OF DORMAMMU. THAT'S NOT ON

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE NEEDS TO TAKE A BEAT.
WE ALL KNOW WHY WE'VE ASKED DOCTOR VOODOO TO COME BEFORE US TODAY. WHY DON'T WE GIVE *HIM* A CHANCE TO SPEAK?
THANK YOU. I UNDERSTAND THE FRUSTRATION OVER WHAT'S HAPPENED IN RECENT DAYS.
THAT SAID, YOU MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE CHILDREN DID WHAT SO MANY OF US HAVE *WANTED* TO DO FOR DECADES BUT COULD NOT...*WOULD* NOT, BECAUSE OF ANCIENT RULES AND ORDERS.
THEY CARE ABOUT WRONG AND RIGHT AS IT PERTAINS TO *ACTUAL PEOPLE,* NOT THE DIVISION OF POWER DICTATED BY SORCERERS CENTURIES AGO.
THEY APPLIED THE PRINCIPLES WE'RE TEACHING THEM TO *REAL LIFE.* BECAUSE OF THIS, I WILL DEFEND THEM AT ANY COST. WHATEVER THAT MEANS FOR MY FUTURE STANDING IN THIS COUNCIL OR *ANY OTHER.*
LET'S SAY WE LET YOU SLIDE ON ALL THE MYSTIC LAW INFRACTIONS. WE STILL HAVE THE VERY *REAL-WORLD* PROBLEM OF THE DAMAGE THAT WAS DONE TO THE QUARTER.
I'M SO GLAD YOU ASKED. THE STUDENTS WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE ASKED ME TO PASS ALONG THEIR MOST SINCERE APOLOGIES AND HAVE OFFERED TO HELP PAY FOR THE DAMAGE THEY CAUSED...
IN OTHER WORDS, WHO'S GONNA PAY TO RESTORE ALL OF THAT?

"...BY THROWING A SCHOOL CARNIVAL FUNDRAISER."
A FEW WEEKS LATER.
THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE, JERICHO. PUTTING ALL OF THIS TOGETHER SO FAST TO HELP THE COMMUNITY WAS A REAL FEAT AND WE THANK YOU.
I CAN'T TAKE CREDIT. THIS WAS ALL ZOE'S IDEA AND DOING. SHE'S A LOCAL LIKE US AND WAS EAGER TO RALLY TOGETHER HER FELLOW CLASSMATES TO RISE TO THE OCCASION.
THEN I'LL HAND OFF THAT THANKS TO YOU, ZOE.
IT'S THE LEAST WE COULD DO. WE'RE JUST SORRY THAT SAVING OUR FRIEND CAME AT SUCH A HIGH COST, BUT WE'RE DETERMINED TO MAKE IT RIGHT.
OF THAT, WE HAVE NO DOUBT. NOW, WE ARE AT A CARNIVAL, AND MS. HAZEL CAN SMELL HER AN ELEPHANT EAR OUT THERE SOMEWHERE. BE A DEAR AND GUIDE THESE OLD BONES TO WHEREVER THAT AROMA IS COMING FROM.
HA HA. OF COURSE, MS. HAZEL.
NOW, THE REST OF YOU GO AND ENJOY THE CARNIVAL!

WELL, THINGS SEEM TO BE GOING OFF WITHOUT A HITCH! NO STUDENT REVOLTS, EVIL CULTS OR MAGICAL VILLAINS TO DEAL WITH. HOW LONG UNTIL--?
HEEELLLLP!

WHY IS THE DEEP FRYER SHAKING?
I DON'T KNOW! I FOUND A RECIPE FOR FRIED CALAMARI IN THIS COOKBOOK, AND THEN IT ALL STARTED TO HAPPEN!
SURE CAN.
YOU CAN SET YOUR WATCH TO IT.
I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT NOW THAT THIS IS NOT A COOKBOOK!
THEN WHAT IS IT?
OH, JUST THE SECRET SPELLS USED TO KEEP ALL OF THE WORST MONSTERS KNOWN TO THE MULTIVERSE FROM COMING TO OUR WORLD TO FEAST ON US LIKE A BUFFET!
I TOLD GERMÁN I WASN'T A GOOD COOK!


CONGRATS, KID! YOU FINALLY GOT IT.
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND THESE GAMES. PEOPLE SPEND MORE MONEY TRYING TO WIN THE PRIZE THAN THEY WOULD IF THEY JUST BOUGHT IT.
WINNING IS THE PRIZE. IT'S ALL IN THEIR HEADS.
ANYWAY, ZOE SENT ME OVER TO COLLECT THE MONEY YOU'VE MADE SO FAR.
THEY'RE NOT REALLY TRYING TO WIN THE PRIZE...
OH YEAH? HOW CAN WE TRUST THAT YOU'RE NOT JUST GOING TO POCKET IT AND FIND ANOTHER DEALER TO--
ALVI, COME ON!
NO, DOYLE, IT'S OKAY. I DESERVE THAT.
YOU KNOW, YOU CAN TAKE THAT APOLOGY AND...
AH, WHO AM I KIDDING? I CAN'T STAY MAD AT YOU, MAN! YOU'RE TOO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE ALL REMORSEFUL.
I SAID AND DID SOME PRETTY HORRIBLE THINGS. I CAN'T TAKE ANY OF IT BACK, BUT I CAN
OKAY, I TAKE IT BACK! I
Bears

THANKS FOR SAVING ME, BUT MOST OF ALL, FOR WELCOMING ME BACK. I HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO TO MAKE THINGS UP TO... WELL, EVERYONE. I'M UP FOR IT!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
IT'S ALL GOOD, BUDDY. WE'VE ALL MADE MISTAKES. I MEAN TAKE ME FOR EXAMPLE, I GAVE MY GIRLFRIEND A RING THAT ENDED UP TURNING HER ALL DARK AND AGGRO THAT MIGHT HAVE ACCIDENTALLY FULFILLED A BIG, BAD, EVIL PROPHECY.
YEAH, THAT'S ACTUALLY WORSE THAN CALVIN'S SCREWUP.
HEY!
THERE'S SOMETHING BIG GOING DOWN IN THE FOOD TENT! SOMETHING ABOUT HOWIE AND AN EXTRADIMENSIONAL CRACK OR SOMETHING. THEY NEED YOU TWO THERE NOW, BUT THEY'RE TRYING TO KEEP IT QUIET.
CALVIN, UM...CAN YOU, UH...?
GO! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'LL HOLD IT DOWN HERE. I WOULDN'T BE MUCH HELP ANYWAY!
THANKS, BUDDY! WELCOME BACK!

I DO.
STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! YOU GET THREE BALLS, THREE THROWS TO KNOCK DOWN THREE BOTTLES! EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE!
WHO WANTS TO GIVE IT A TRY?
WHAT DO I GET IF I WIN?
NOTHING! YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
NEITHER SHOULD YOU.
NOW, I'LL ASK AGAIN...
...WHAT DO I WIN?
CRASH

I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU, EMILY.
WHAT ABOUT ME?!
THAT'S GOOD, BECAUSE WE'RE NOT HERE TO SCARE YOU.
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US, CALVIN. HELP US TEAR DOWN THEIR BROKEN SYSTEM. SO THEY CAN'T THROW ANY OTHER KIDS AWAY LIKE THEY DID YOU. AND TO DO THAT...
...I'D LIKE TO RETURN SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO YOU.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD GIVE ME THAT I WOULD WANT.
THEN WHAT'S THE HARM IN OPENING THE BOX?

HOW DID YOU DO THIS?
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT EXPLAINING HOW MAGIC WORKS IS NO FUN.
IT'S BETTER TO JUST EMBRACE ITS EXISTENCE AND ALLOW IT TO FEEL GOOD...
...LIKE AN OLD COAT.
THERE'S THE OLD CALVIN WE KNEW.
STILL FITS IN ALL THE WAYS, DOESN'T IT?
YEAH, IT DOES. I FEEL NORMAL FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE...
...THEY RIPPED US APART FROM EACH OTHER. SINCE THEY TOOK AWAY YOUR...
...MISERY.

NO! I DON'T WANT THIS AGAIN!
YOU NEED ME, CALVIN!
NO...I... DON'T!
NOT ANYMORE!
XCFXM!
HIΦPCXI!
THAT WAS NEVER MINE. IT USED ME...
...JUST LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO NOW.

WELL, LOOK AT YOU. USING SOME OF ZELMA'S SPELLS FROM HER LITTLE DIARY.
YOU'RE LIKE A DOG WHO GETS BEAT. ALL IT TAKES IS A FEW TREATS FROM YOUR MASTER AND YOU'RE RIGHT BACK BY THEIR SIDE. LIKE YOU FORGOT HOW THEY TREATED YOU.
YOU FINALLY SAID SOMETHING RIGHT. IT'S HOW THEY TREATED ME! NOT YOU! THEY DID WHAT THEY DID BECAUSE I MESSED UP. ME! NOT THEM!
THEY ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT ME. I KNOW THAT NOW. BUT NOT YOU. I'M JUST A PROP FOR YOU AND WHATEVER NARRATIVE YOU'RE SPINNING TO MAKE YOURSELF OUT TO BE, WHAT...A HERO?
YOU AND I BOTH KNOW YOU'RE NOT THAT. YOU'RE THE OTHER THING.

GAARRH!

DESSY, NO!
IT'S OKAY, IRIC. WHAT WAS THAT LITTLE SPEECH EMILY JUST GAVE ABOUT MASTERS AND THEIR DOGS?

LET HIM GO.
RRAAGGHHH!
HERE, LET ME--
DON'T TOUCH ME!
YOU DON'T GET TO BE ONE OF HER LACKEYS AND MY DEFENDER AT THE SAME TIME. YOU CHOSE YOUR SIDE.
AND SO DID YOU. I JUST WISH YOU WOULD'VE CHOSEN WISER.
COME ON, LET'S GO.
TELL DOYLE AND THE OTHERS TO GET READY...

CALVIN, WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? HOWIE TOTALLY RELEASED SOMETHING CALLED SHUMA-GORATH AND WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE IF WE DON'T GET HIM BACK TO HIS DIMENSION!
AH, I RAN INTO A FEW OLD FRIENDS. BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME...
...LET'S GET THE DEFORMED SEA MONKEY BACK WHERE IT BELONGS!
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE FOR THE NEW DISCIPLINARY MEETING YOU'LL CALL ME TO AS A RESULT OF MY STUDENT SUMMONING AN OLD ONE TO THE SCHOOL CARNIVAL.
I SUGGEST THE NEXT FUNDRAISER TO PAY FOR ALL OF THIS SHOULD JUST BE A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED BAKE SALE.
HEY, IS THAT KID OVER THERE THROWING ROCKS AT SHUMA-GORATH?
YEAH. THAT'S THE THING ABOUT STRANGE ACADEMY...

"...OUR STUDENTS HAVE A WAY OF KEEPING US ON OUR TOES."
I KNOW WE'RE ALL ENEMIES AND STUFF NOW, BUT DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD HELP THEM OUT? I MEAN, SHUMA-GORATH IS A PRETTY BIG DEAL.
NO. THEY CAN HANDLE IT.
BESIDES, THEY'RE GOING TO NEED SOME PRACTICE...

...FOR WHAT THEY HAVE COMING.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO PAY ME A VISIT FOR A LONG TIME, EMILY BRIGHT.

STRANGE Academy

Come one, come all to the...

FIRST ANNUAL STRANGE ACADEMY STUDENT FAIR!

Join us for a fun-filled day on the Strange Academy campus!

Live music*, food, and games***!**

General Admission $5

(prices vary for entertainment and dining options)

All proceeds go to the restoration of New Orleans' historic French Quarter!

*Strange Academy is not responsible for any injuries sustained during charmed dancing.

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***Strange Academy is not responsible for any side effects of enchanted prizes.

STRANGE
Academy

ISSUE #4

on sale JANUARY!

ZONE